

New law authorizes a justice of the peace in a parish whose population exceeds 400,000 to appoint a clerk of court whose jurisdiction would coincide with the jurisdiction of the appointing justice of the peace. Further, authorizes the clerk of court to accept, record, and process filings.

New law authorizes a justice of the peace in a parish whose population exceeds 400,000 to demand and receive up to the following amounts in addition to or in lieu of other fees and costs allowed by law for filings and services in civil matters:

- (1) New suit: \$20, and \$5 per additional defendant.
- (2) Eviction proceeding: \$20, and \$5 per additional defendant.
- (3) Garnishment, writ of attachment through garnishment: \$20, and \$5 per additional defendant, plus \$10 for attorney answering any interrogatories.
- (4) Service of garnishment pleadings and order on defendant when garnishee is a financial institution: \$20, and \$5 per additional defendant.
- (5) Judgment debtor rule: \$20, and \$5 per additional defendant.

New law requires a justice of the peace to retain each fee and deposit in a separate account for fees and operational expenses of the clerk of court's office.

New law permits a justice of the peace to demand plaintiff provide costs in advance except when the plaintiff is relieved from the necessity of paying costs or furnishing security therefor.

New law permits this specified justice of the peace to receive an amount not to exceed \$80 as a fee for issuing a peace bond. Further provides that of this amount \$20 goes to the clerk of court and of the remaining amount 50% of each fee is retained by the justice of the peace and 50% goes to the constable which amounts shall be used by both for fees and operational expenses of their respective offices.

Effective August 15, 1999.

(Adds R.S. 13:2590.1)